

Amendment/Response

Reply to Office Action of February 26, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

Bi | 6. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a magnetic head ~~as claimed in Claim 5~~, characterized in that a first layer consisting essentially of ~~mainly comprising~~ Cr is formed on the head face, at least on the head structure by means of sputtering deposition, and a second layer consisting essentially of ~~mainly comprising~~ Cr₂O₃ is formed on the first layer by means of sputtering deposition.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 6, characterized in that sputtering is performed with a chromium target without oxygen addition until the first layer is formed, whereafter oxygen is supplied for forming the second layer.

8. (New) A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the first layer has a thickness of between 1 nm and 20 nm, and the second layer has a thickness of between 10 nm and 100 nm.

9. (New) A method of manufacturing a magnetic head, comprising the steps of:
depositing a first layer comprising mainly a material ^{open other elements} selected from the group consisting of Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta, Al, and Zn on a head face of the head; and

depositing a second layer on the first layer, wherein the second layer comprises a material selected from the group of chromium oxide, chromium nitride, hafnium nitride, titanium nitride, chromium carbide, titanium carbide, and tungsten carbide;

wherein the first layer has a thickness of between 1 nm and 20 nm, and the second layer has a thickness of between 10 nm and 100 nm.

10. (New) A method of manufacturing a magnetic head, comprising the steps of:

providing a head structure with a transducing gap, said transducing gap terminating in said head face, wherein different materials are present in different areas of said head face;

forming a first layer on said head face of a first material which is more sensitive to corrosion than said materials in said head face; and

forming a second layer on said first layer at said transducing gap and on both sides thereof of a second material of a wear-resistant material that is more insensitive to corrosion than said first material.
